

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4211

S E C R E T AMMAN 2028

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FOR ATHERTON FROM PICKERING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US

SUBJECT: KING'S VISIT

REF: AMMAN 1970

1. FOLLOWING TALK WITH RIFAI TODAY HE RAISED QUESTION OF KING'S VISIT. HE NOTED THAT GOJ HAD ALREADY COMPLETED ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT TO FRANCE TO BEGIN ON THURSDAY APRIL 24 AND LASTING THROUGH MONDAY APRIL 28. (THIS APPEARS TO NEGATE OUR COMMENT ABOUT FLEXIBILITY IN REFTEL).

2. KING WOULD PLAN TO ARRIVE ON 28TH AND USE BLAIR HOUSE THROUGH NOON ON 30TH. HE WOULD THEN GO INTO WALTER REED FOR HIS CHECK UP; PRESUMABLY WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY NIGHTS WOULD BE SPENT THERE AND LEAVE ON FRIDAY TO RECEIVE HIS HONORARY DEGREES AT THE CITADEL AND FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY. FROM THERE HE WOULD GO TO PALM BEACH FOR A PRIVATE VACATION AND RETURN TO AMMAN AT THE END OF THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

3. RIFAI ASKED ABOUT SCHEDULE. I SAID NOTHING WAS FIXED. HE ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SEE PRESIDENT TUESDAY APRIL 29 PRIOR TO LUNCH, THEN POSSIBLY LUNCH WITH SECRETARY (I AM NOT SURE WHETHER THIS WAS DISCUSSED PRIVATELY WITH THE SECRETARY HERE, YOU WILL RECALL THE CONFUSION ON THIS POINT). AFTERWARD HE WOULD HOPE TO CALL ON THE VICE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF
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DEFENSE TO BE FOLLOWED BY WHITE HOUSE WORKING DINNER. THE FOLLOWING

MORNING, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30 HE WOULD HOPE TO VISIT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON THE HILL. IS LUNCHEON WITH SFRC POSSIBLE? MORNING MEETING WITH HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO BE VERY VALUABLE.

4. I ENCOURAGED RIFAI TO USE AMBASSADOR SALAH TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE HONORARY DEGREES AND ALSO, SHOULD JORDANIANS SO WISH, TO WORK ON TV APPEARANCE FOR KING. RIFAI SAID KING WOULD PROBABLY TRY TO DO THAT ONE EVENING WHILE HE IS STAYING AT WALTER REED. WE STILL HAVE NO FIRM IDEA ON PARTY COMPOSITION.

5. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL FOR ME TO RETURN DURING VISIT AND HOPE BUREAU WILL AUTHORIZE TRAVEL ACCORDINGLY WITH UP TO WEEK CONSULTATION IN BUREAU FOLLOWING VISIT. WOULD PLAN TO LEAVE HERE APRIL 26, ARRIVE WASHINGTON APRIL 27 UNLESS YOU SEE NEED FOR EARLIER ARRIVAL.
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